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Thursday, June 10, 2010

THE MORNING NEWS

Your Source for Local News in English

Caya G. F. Betico Croes 111 - Tel: 588-9517 - Fax: 588-9518 - E-mail: themorningnewsaruba@gmail.com

The Netherlands moves to the right but a coalition will be tricky

Balkenende resigns



A Dutch cyclist flashes a v-sign as he passes election posters and a windmill in Amsterdam, Netherlands

THE HAGUE — The Dutch political climate shifted to the right on Wednesday, with major gains for Geert Wilders' anti-Islam PVV party and the right-wing Liberals in the general election.

The final are not in yet, but the exit poll gives both the right-wing Liberals (VVD) and Labour (PvdA) 31 seats - a gain of nine for the VVD and a loss of two for

Labour.

The poll also indicates that Geert Wilders' anti-immigration PVV will win 22 seats, well above opinion poll forecasts. The PVV had nine seats in the last parliament.

VVD leader Mark Rutte told a jubilant crowd of supporters that it was 'a fantastic evening'.

'We are the party for everyone who wants to make

something of their lives,' Rutte said, before congratulating first Geert Wilders' PVV and then the other winning parties.

Of the other parties, the green GroenLinks got 11 seats (up from seven), the centrist D66 10 (up from 3) and the Christian Union five, up from four.

Problems ahead

Meanwhile, Labour leader Job Cohen, former mayor of Amsterdam, told supporters he would do all he could to make sure the Netherlands continues to be a social and decent country.

The definitive exit poll shows it will be difficult to form a new coalition, with the three right-wing parties failing to win a majority of seats in the 150 seat parliament and needing the support of the fundamentalist Christians if they are to take control.

Wilders ready

A jubilant PVV leader Geert Wilders told Nos tv he hopes the party will be able to join a coalition government. 'We are the big winner and they cannot ignore us. We want to be taken seriously,' he said.

Nevertheless, it will be difficult to form a government including the PVV. Most parties, including Labour and the other two big winners, D66 and GroenLinks, have already said they will not link up with Wilders.

Muslim groups told news agency ANP they are concerned about the rise of the PVV. 'We respect this democratic outcome but throwing mud at a particular group does not contribute to a harmonious society,' Driss El Boujoufi of the Moroccan Muslim organisation UMMON said.

Some 10,000 polling stations opened in the Netherlands at 7:30 am (0530 GMT) and closed at 1900 GMT for polls brought forward after the government collapsed in February in a spat over military aid to Afghanistan.



Outgoing prime minister Jan Peter Balkenende has resigned as leader of the Christian Democrats following the apparent halving of the party's vote in the general election.

In an emotional address on Wednesday night, he thanked party workers and supporters for the trust they have shown him in his eight years as prime minister.

Looking clearly dejected, the Christian Democrat leader said the voters had made their decision: 'Elections have winners and losers.'

The evenings results are 'very, very disappointing' and the results are 'clear,' he said. 'I have to take responsibility,' he said.

Balkenende said he would not take a seat in parliament either, despite heading the CDA's list of prospective MPs.

Tropical wave approaching Lesser Antilles

MIAMI, Florida -- A tropical wave is approaching the Lesser Antilles, spreading rainfall from Barbados westward through the course of the day.

The wave looks quite impressive for this time of year. In early June, we usually don't see significant development of persistent thunderstorms around these tropical waves. However, this year is abnormal, with the waters of the

tropical Atlantic running warmer-than-normal.

In other words: the Atlantic is several weeks ahead of schedule.

This tropical wave will move west into the Caribbean, and while the National Hurricane Center mentioned it on their morning weather discussion, they rightfully give it a very low chance of development.

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Sources: FBI paid money in van der Sloot sting

WASHINGTON(AP) — U.S. authorities paid Joran van der Sloot at least \$15,000 in a sting operation and delayed arresting him because they were trying to help build a murder case against him in the 5-year-old disappearance of Natalee Holloway in Aruba, two federal law enforcement officials said yesterday.

During that delay, van der Sloot arrived in Lima, Peru, on May 14, and authorities say he has confessed to last week's killing of a 21-year-old woman in his hotel room there.

The law enforcement officials say the investigation into Holloway's disappearance was revived about six weeks ago when van der Sloot reached out to someone close to Holloway's mother in Alabama and requested \$250,000 in exchange for disclosing the location of Holloway's body on the island of Aruba.

Aruba authorities have been frustrated in their efforts to prosecute van der Sloot because they have been unable to find her remains.

The officials said that Holloway's mother, Beth Twitty, contacted law enforcement authorities in Alabama, and the

FBI set a sting operation in motion targeting van der Sloot. The agency wired \$15,000 to a bank account he controlled, officials added.

Separately, private investigator Bo Dietl said in an interview that in April, shortly after van der Sloot's father died, van der Sloot contacted an attorney for the Holloway family, John Kelly, and offered to explain how Holloway died in exchange for \$250,000 from Holloway's mother.

Dietl said that at a May 10 meeting in Aruba, Kelly offered van der Sloot \$25,000 up front, with the rest to be delivered once the body was found. According to Dietl, van der Sloot received \$10,000 in cash and \$15,000 by wire transfer. There was no immediate explanation from government officials for the discrepancy in the

amounts of money between their description and Dietl's.

"He said he pushed Natalee Holloway, her head hit a rock," Dietl said. He said the father was told the body was buried "near a construction site near their house." But the information proved to be false, said the private investigator.

"He's lied so much, we don't know," said Dietl, who has been working with Kelly on the Holloway case.

The U.S. government's payment to van der Sloot was first reported by the New York Post. Law enforcement officials spoke on condition of anonymity because the murder investigation in Aruba is still under way.

In Birmingham, Ala., FBI spokesman Paul Daymond and a spokeswoman for the U.S. attorney's office, Peggy Sanford, declined to comment.

Dutch concern over van der Sloot 'show trial'

Dutch media expressed concern Tuesday about the prospects of Joran van der Sloot getting a fair trial following his arrest in Peru over the death of a 21-year-old woman.

Peruvian authorities say that Van der Sloot has already con-

fessed to killing Stephany Flores Ramirez and could be charged. If convicted of murder he could face up to 35 years in jail.

The case has attracted international attention because van der Sloot was twice arrested and released in connection with the disappearance of American teenager Natalee Holloway in Aruba in 2005.

In a comment piece published on Tuesday morning before the alleged confession, Dutch newspaper Trouw warned that police and authorities in Peru were under "overwhelming pressure" from the media to condemn van der Sloot, as soon as possible, warning that his presumed guilt appeared to be a "foregone conclusion" which risked turning his case into a "show trial."

It also criticized the "openness" of the Peruvian police in placing van der Sloot in front of television cameras wearing a bulletproof vest, warning that it could compromise the case against the suspect.

"Showing the suspect as a trophy could seriously harm

LIMA, Peru (AP) — Peruvian police took Joran van der Sloot, who they say has confessed to last week's killing of a 21-year-old business student in his Lima hotel room, to visit the crime scene, officials said.

They also said police have until the weekend to file criminal charges against the Dutchman in the May 30 killing of Stephany Flores.

It wasn't clear if Van der Sloot has obtained private counsel, and there was no immediate word from either him or his family about the reported confession.

Peru's chief police spokesman, Col. Abel Gamarra, said late Monday that Van der Sloot confessed earlier in the day.

Several Peruvian media outlets reported, without identifying their sources, that he

admitted to killing Flores in a rage after learning she looked up information about his past on his laptop without permission.

The newspaper La Republica said Van der Sloot tearfully confessed, in the presence of a prosecutor and a state-appointed attorney, to grabbing Flores by the neck and hitting her because she had viewed images about the Aruba case on his computer while he was out buying coffee.

Neither Gamarra, senior police officials nor prosecutors would provide details of the alleged confession, which came on Van der Sloot's third full day in Peruvian custody at criminal police headquarters.

Meanwhile, the Dutch newspaper De Volkskrant quoted the suspect's lawyer in the Netherlands as suggesting the confession may have been coerced.

"Joran told his mother crying Monday that he was being interrogated under reasonably barbaric conditions," the paper quoted Bert De Rooij saying. "He said the police were trying to force him to confess."

Under such conditions, he said, the "confession was possibly false."

The state-appointed lawyer who represented Van der Sloot in initial interrogations, Carla Odria, said that a different lawyer, who she said was hired by the suspect, was with Van der Sloot on Monday. She said she did not know the lawyer's name. Authorities would not release the name of the lawyer.

Officials at the Dutch Embassy, who said the suspect's family was attempting to obtain private counsel for Van der Sloot, could not be reached for comment on whether a private lawyer had in fact been retained.

Van der Sloot's mother, who apparently lives in Aruba, also could not be located for comment.

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CasMarie offers more treatment options for its clients

ORANJESTAD -- CasMarie provides day care for people with dementia. It also guides and supports patients' relatives and caregivers with dealing and accepting the disease and the problems that accompany it.

As of June 1, 2010, Mrs. Gyseth Nüesch is working at CasMarie as Treatment Coordinator. Gyseth Nüesch is a psychologist with extensive

experience in treating the elderly. The issues surrounding dementia are also well known to her.

Besides coordinating treatment at CasMarie, she has also as task to introduce new care systems. CasMarie will in the future, in a structured way, shape its caretaking support system. This means that there will be meetings with the caretakers where various topics will be discussed. The aim is to exchange information and seek peer support for the carers to give them strength to keep up with their job at home for as long as possible. CasMarie also offers the possibility for questions and/or uncertainties about the cognitive functioning of neuro-psychological research, with the aim of achieving a reliable and accurate diagnosis. Equally important is identifying the strengths and

vulnerabilities of the client and making the environment at home better to be able to respond to his/her behaviour.

Soon there will be an informative evening on dementia and where prospective clients can apply to join CasMarie. The aim of CasMarie is to introduce the formation of a group of clients who participate in "The Memory Support Group." Clients who are eligible to participate in this group practice more than just memory problems, they get the opportunity to actively participate and qualify to be part of the support group. After qualifying CasMarie will notify the client for a home inspection where they choose which group is better for the client to join.

The board of CasMarie welcomes Gyseth Nüesch and wishes her lots of success.

WEB Aruba N.V. announces work in Paradera and its vicinity

BALASHI – WEB Aruba N.V. announces that its Water Distribution Section is doing necessary reparation work on the red of the water distribution. The work encloses the replacement of a four 12" pipes at the crossing west of Pacifico Restaurant.

The work will take place today, June 10, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

In connection with these reparations, the water pressure can be affected in the following neighborhoods:

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quests all motorists who use the road Paradera – Santa Cruz to please **slow down** and look out for the traffic signs during this period (change of route, heavy traffic, people at work near the road, etc.)

WEB Aruba N.V. apologizes for any inconvenience caused while doing this work.

If WEB Aruba NV. causes any inconvenience i.e. low water pressure, readers may contact W.E.B. Aruba N.V. at tel. 525-4600.

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Aruba's religious sites Featured: the Lourdes Grotto



Aruba is known for its beautiful white beaches, pristine turquoise waters, a lot of sunshine and a beautiful arid landscape. Tourist flow to the island to relax in a tranquil ambiance and enjoy the many activities constantly happening here. But what if you want to spend a quiet moment? Aruba's spiritual sites offer you the best to achieve the perfect balance of body and soul.

Aruba was colonized by both the Spanish and the Dutch, thus has a strong prevalent Catholic population, even today. While there are many religions represented on the island, it is the Aruba churches and sites that draw those of all faiths.

The Lourdes Grotto is possibly the most well-known religious site on Aruba. Located near San Nicolas in the southern part of the island, away

from most of the action, the Lourdes Grotto is peaceful and set away from much of the hectic activity. A grotto is either a natural or artificial cave used by humans, and the grotto on Aruba became a religious site when the Catholic church placed a large statue of the Virgin Mary into a rocky hillside at Seroe Preto in 1958.

The Lourdes Grotto is named after the region in southern France where the Virgin Mary appeared to a peasant girl. The statue was placed on Aruba to mark the 150th anniversary of this appearance. Another cave is located across the street and, as an extra treat for visitors, parakeets live all around this area. Every year on February 11, a procession travels from the St. Theresita Church located in San Nicolas to the Lourdes Grotto Aruba for mass.

Linda's Pancakes and Pizza place, delicious meals for breakfast, lunch and dinner

Linda's Pancake and Pizza place, located at Palm Beach 6D, Noord (on the right side of Valero gas station) offers patrons the most delicious Dutch pancakes and pizza's with a Dutch twist.

Open from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., and only five minutes away from the high-rise resorts, Linda's is the perfect eatery for the whole family.

Seeing the popularity of this quaint small eatery, THE MORNING NEWS decided it was time to find out just how good Linda's really is, by sending out a team of taste testers.

Olgita, joined by her two kids ordered a little of everything while the kids roamed around freely, enjoying the afternoon.

The meal started out with Linda's original plain – to die for – Dutch pancakes, followed by pizza, where instead of using mozzarella Linda has created a unique twist to the traditional Italian dish by using Dutch Gouda cheese. Adding a local favorite which could not stay off the table they also sampled the delicious saté (chicken, pork or beef on a wooden skewer) with peanut sauce (Indonesian influence on local food). For the finish the team (adults only) had one cup of Linda's delicious Espresso.

The team had this to say: "Superb! There are no words to describe just how delicious the pancakes are and the pizza is just mmm... good. The saté... out of this world!"

Besides the original plain pancake, Linda's specialty is pancakes with walnuts, Brie and honey; pancakes with banana and mango or a Dutch favorite: pancake with apple and bacon.

All their pizzas are made with Dutch Gouda cheese and different toppings making it richer in taste.

When it comes to saté, one has to say that the secret is in the sauce. Not everybody can make that perfect peanut sauce, but Linda, being an expert in the kitchen has cooked up one of the finest peanut sauces on the island, making this original Indonesian dish extra special.

If you want a specially prepared pancake or pizza, Linda is right there -- just for you -- in her kitchen.

"For those who are allergic to gluten I have a special pan-



Olgita, Ilhan and Iyanla enjoying a scrumptious meal



Plain Pancake



Linda's delicious pizza prepared with Gouda Cheese



The famous Saté

cake mix, gluten free," Linda stated to THE MORNING NEWS team.

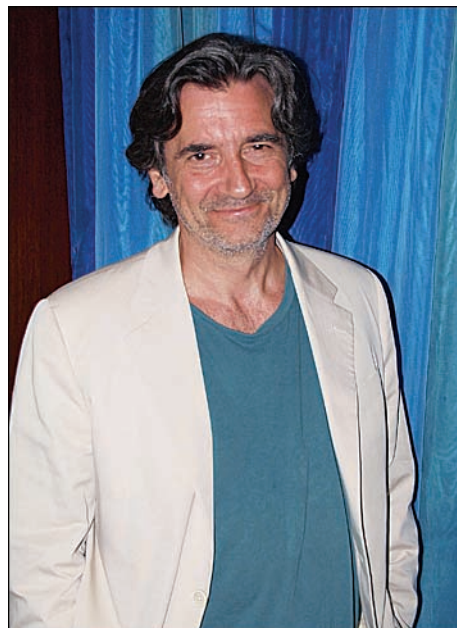
Linda's Pancakes and Pizza also offers fried eggs and homemade soups.

"We also serve American coffee," Linda concluded.

With a complete menu, filled with delicious pancakes, pizzas and more, Linda's pancake and Pizza place is the perfect casual restaurant for all in the family.

For more information contact Linda's at 586-3378.

Conversations with....Griffin Dunne



Noted actor, producer and director Griffin Dunne celebrated his birthday on Aruba by giving his time to media and the public during interview sessions and an afternoon master class for fans of cinema and aspiring young filmmakers attending the Aruba International Film Festival.

Dunne quietly slipped into Aruba with his wife to spend a week enjoying the premieres and the beach. He revealed he is in the midst of negotiating three projects he would expect to keep him very busy and in the public eye over the next few years, but refused to give more details in the Hollywood tradition of not wanting to jinx the outcome. "Being here on Aruba is a totally win/win situation for me, the best place for me to be at this time. I turn off the phone and just lie on the beach and relax; if I was back in New York I would be stressed and crazy; so this is working out perfectly. Also, I had never been to Aruba, after visiting most of the rest of the Caribbean."

Aside from bringing his clever insights and commentary to the daily master classes being conducted in The Cinemas at the Paseo Herencia Mall, Dunne also provided one of the more delightful surprises of the AIFF. He presented a clip from his contribution to a collaborative effort by some of the industry's top talent, producers and directors, tentatively titled "Veronica" starring Emma Stone and Keiren Kulken. Eighteen short, comedic "skits" will eventually be combined into a feature-length film, release date yet to be announced. A screening of his hilarious short subject opened his master class, followed by a discussion of his vision when making the film.

Another subject that pre-

occupied both Dunne and Claudio Massenza, artistic director of the AIFF and facilitator of the workshop, was obstacles filmmakers frequently face in getting a project financed and completed. Major studio executives appear to be terrified of what they perceive deviates from their conception of tried and true formulas for financial success. Massenza mention how original and daring US television productions are becoming, particularly compared to Italy, and Dunne agreed, citing what he considered some remarkably creative and meaningful work, such as "The Wire."

Griffin Dunne is the son of best-selling author Dominick Dunne, who passed away last year. Dominick Dunne was an important figure in film and television when Griffin was a child. Griffin recalled growing up surrounded by social events attended by some of the most famous names in media. His father was blackballed in Hollywood and went into "self-exile" in Oregon to reinvent himself as a memorable writer. "To see someone go through unbelievable hardship and not give up had a definitive influence on me and my daughter. My father's journey is both an inspiration and a cautionary tale for me."

As Dunne's father was an outcast to the industry just as his son was attempting to break in as an actor, "he could not offer me the assistance he might have," he reveals, "he was always very supportive of my desire to be an actor since I was a child, and probably would have gotten me parts even then, but my mother was having none of it."

Dunne, who has a natural talent for comedy, confessed he was "like the brilliant student who can't take tests. I would be cracking everyone

up while waiting to go in for an audition, but then once I got in I would find it daunting and get inexplicably nervous. Finally, I and two friends optioned a book and produced our own film, released as "Head over Heels," also known as, "Chilly Scenes of Winter." I gave myself a small part in the film, which received enormous critical attention and acclaim. Soon I received a script from John Landis called "American Werewolf in London," which he wanted me for, no audition necessary." This groundbreaking film "was the first to really combine horror and humor," comments Dunne; it gave his acting career a jumpstart. "Some people think "Ghostbusters" was the first funny horror movie, but it was "Werewolf," and at the time, people didn't know quite what to think, it got mixed reviews. Now, of course you can't kill someone without saying a funny line."

In closing the workshop, Dunne responded to a question about humor on the screen, as he is mostly associated with "Rom-coms" a genre he enjoys and "loves doing." He is directing an episode of the "Good Wife," presently and will have a re-occurring character on an HBO series. He confessed to enjoying "the energy of a project that completely absorbs six months of my life."

"I think comedy is hard because very few people appreciate how difficult it is to be funny. "Dying is easy, comedy is hard," is on the tombstone of Barry Moore, I believe. It is easier to play a scene where you come home and find your mother with a knife in her back and end up wailing to the skies, as to being loose and inventive; there is a smaller talent pool for that. I think it has always been under-appreciated."

by Rosalie Klein





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"Nos Cartera y Nos Finansa" - "Our Pocket and our Finance" survey by Central Bank

ORANJESTAD -- The Centrale Bank van Aruba (CBA) is currently conducting the survey "Nos Cartera y Nos Finansa." - Our Pocket and our Finance. This survey will continue until June 21, 2010.

The CBA is glad to announce that during the first week of this survey it has received tremendous cooperation from the Aruban community and has already collected a large amount of very valuable information on the financial position of Aruban households.

The CBA would like to

thank the Aruban community for its cooperation and hopes that it will continue to participate in this survey, which will help identify potential problem areas and vulnerable groups within the Aruban community, and will contribute towards a more effective policy formulation and implementation with respect to the financial position of households.

For further information on this matter, please contact Mr. Giantcarlo Croes (project leader) at tel. 5252162 or via e-mail g.g.croes@cbaruba.org.



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Science/Tech.

No, Really: Earth is flat in most peoples' minds



By now, most people agree that we live on a round planet. But deep down, scientists find that many still think about the Earth as if it were flat.

Researchers asked 44 people to estimate, in kilometers, the distances between six cities on different continents, without looking at a map. They found that many people made these calculations as if the Earth were a flat plane, rather than a round sphere. (In fact, the Earth isn't quite a perfect sphere; it's more like a squashed beach ball.)

If the planet is visualized as a two-dimensional plane, like a flat map, then the distance between two cities will be a straight line. However, if you think of the planet like a globe, then the span between two places will be a curved line, which is longer than a straight line. Thus, people who forgot the Earth is round consistently underestimated these distances.

According to the study, those most likely to accurately picture the Earth as round are people who've had personal experiences with the curvature of the Earth.

"Ninety-nine percent of all people think that of course the Earth is round, because they have learned it in school," said study researcher Claus-Christian Carbon of Germany's University of Bamberg. "But the thing is, this doesn't solve the cognitive problem of whether people really base calculations of routes on such a model."

While this misconception doesn't matter much if you're estimating the distance from, say, New Jersey to New York, if you're charting a path from New York to Paris it makes quite a bit of difference. In the study, participants were asked to estimate the distances between Los Angeles; Berlin; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Cape Town, South Africa; and Sydney, Australia.

The researchers found that about half of respondents' answers were consistent with a flat Earth, while the other half were more accurate and consistent with a round planet. The participants' education level or background made no apparent difference to their ability to correctly estimate these distances.

"What we found was really a very big surprise for us, because I had the feeling that most estimations are based of course on a spherical world," Carbon said. "The fantastic thing was, it does not matter at all whether you have a very good geographical knowledge."

The only predictor of a person's accuracy that the study showed was whether or not people had a personal experience of the Earth as a globe.

Some participants said they had had moments in their lives when they observed the curvature of the Earth from a plane, or watched a boat sinking over the horizon at the beach. People who could recall such experiences apparently retained this knowledge and continued to visualize the planet as round when calculating large-scale distances.

Carbon compared the phenomenon to a person being told not to touch a hot stove. Most people must first try touching the stove when they are young to fully comprehend how hot and dangerous the stove really is.

"We could have knowledge about things, but to really apply this knowledge you need personal experiences," Carbon said. "This is really transferable to many domains where we also have knowledge about something, but we cannot apply it."

The finding could have implications for teaching methods about geography as well as many other concepts, he said.

The study is detailed in the latest issue of Elsevier's journal *Cognition*.

Y2K-style computer bug looms over Taiwan

HSINTIEN - Thousands of small businesses in Taiwan are looking with growing unease towards December 31, 2010, fearing that the New Year will trigger a local version of the Y2K "millennium bug".

The island's unique calendar counts time from the 1911 revolution that brought down the last Chinese emperor, meaning January 1 will not be the start of 2011, but of year 100.

The concern is this could spell havoc for many older computers that have to get used to counting three digits rather than two.

Experts estimate that up to 200,000 local shops and companies still use computers that are not armed to withstand the local version of the millennium bug.

"Primarily, the bug may cause problems for accounting, inventory and personnel systems at small businesses,"

said Louis Chen, an economic ministry official.

Although there is little more than half a year left to get prepared, numerous companies have so far done nothing.

Fifteen percent of the island's small businesses say they have taken no pre-emptive measures even though they believe they may be at risk, according to a recent survey by the economics ministry.



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Honeybees can learn foreign 'languages'



They may "speak" different languages, but Asian and European honeybees living in the same hive can learn to translate each others' dances to help one another find food, a new study reveals.

Honeybees produce and store honey and build colonial hives from wax. The nine species of honeybees found worldwide diverged, in evolutionary terms, about 30 million to 50 million years ago and developed different dance "languages" that they use to tell each other where a tasty flower or choice nesting site is.

"The scouts perform the so-called bee dances inside the nest," said study leader Shaowu Zhang of The Australian National University. "The coordinates of distant locations are encoded in the waggle phase of this ballet, with the direction and distance to the food source indicated by the orientation and duration of the dance."

The duration of the "waggle dances" differs from species to species, even if bees are trying to communi-

cate the same distance information.

"It's these differences which we can think of as distinct languages," Zhang said.

Zhang and his team mixed two species of honeybees, Asian (*Apis cerana cerana*) and European (*Apis mellifera ligustica*), together in a hive, and once they had adjusted to each other, the scientists trained one species to fly to a feeder set at varying distances from the hive.

When European honeybees were trained to find the feeder, Asian honeybees were able to decipher the dances of their European cousins and interpret where the feeder was. The same was true when the experiment was reversed.

"They can understand and communicate [with] each other," Zhang said.

Whether bilingual bees occur in nature though is uncertain, because "the different species of honeybees do not live together in nature," Zhang said. "We established an artificially mixed colony for our experiments."

The team's findings are detailed online in the journal *PLoS ONE*. The study was funded by the National Natural Science Foundation of China and the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence in Vision Science.

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HEALTH & LIVING

Shortness boosts heart disease, death risk: study

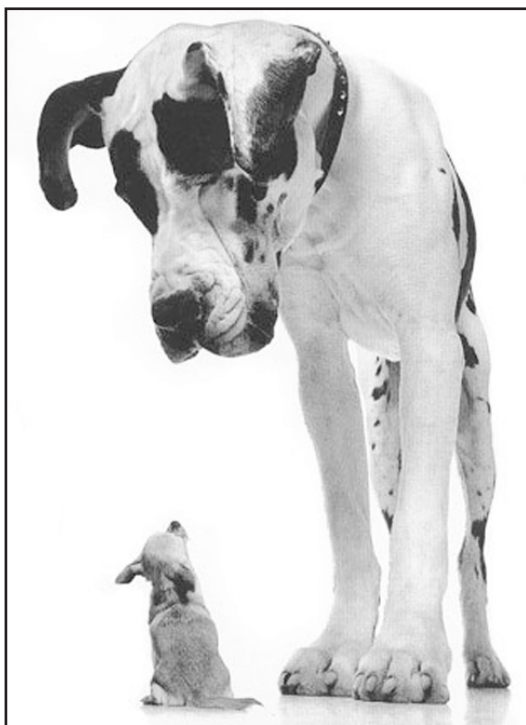
Short people have a significantly increased risk of developing heart disease, a new analysis suggests.

Over the years, there has been conflicting evidence on whether shortness was associated with heart disease. However, this is the first systematic review that has been done on the topic, according to the Finnish researchers.

"Height may be considered as a possible independent factor to be used in calculating people's risk of heart disease," said lead author Dr. Tuula Paajanen, a researcher in the Department of Forensic Medicine at the University of Tampere.

Height is used to calculate body mass index (a measurement of body fat), which is widely used to quantify risk of coronary heart disease, she added.

"But height is only one factor that may contribute to heart disease risk, and whereas people have no control over their height or ge-



netics, they can control their weight, lifestyle habits such as smoking, drinking and exercise, and all of these together affect their heart disease risk," Paajanen said. "The more risk factors you have, the more effort you should concentrate to reduce

the risk factors you can."

The report is published in the June 9 online issue of the European Heart Journal.

For the study, Paajanen's group analyzed data from 52 studies that included 3,012,747 people. Short people were considered those under 5-foot 3-inches and tall people were just over 5-foot-8.

Separated by gender, short men were under 5-foot-5, and short women were under 5-foot tall. Tall men were over 5-foot-9, and tall women were over 5-foot-5.

Compared with the tallest people, the shortest people were almost 1.5 times more likely to die from cardiovascular disease or to live with heart disease or suffer a heart

attack, the researchers found.

Considering men and women separately, short men were 37 percent more likely to die from any cause compared with tall men, and short women were 55 percent more likely to die from any cause compared with taller women, Paajanen's team noted.

Paajanen added that it is unknown why there is an association between height and the risk for heart disease.

The researchers, however, speculated that shorter people have smaller coronary arteries that may get blocked earlier in life due to other risk factors such as poverty, poor nutrition and infections that result in poor early life growth. Smaller coronary arteries also might be subject to changes in blood flow.

However, recent genetic findings about body height suggest that inherited factors, rather than poor nutrition or low birth weight, may explain the association between shortness and an increased risk of heart disease, the re-

searchers pointed out.

Dr. Gregg C. Fonarow, director of the Ahmanson-UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center at the University of California, Los Angeles, said that "many but not all prior studies have suggested that individuals of short stature may be at higher risk for cardiovascular events and cardiovascular death, independent of other established cardiovascular risk factors."

But to reduce the overall risk of heart disease, people need to control the risk factors they can, Fonarow added.

"Individuals of short stature, along with those of all heights, should be aware of the cardiovascular risks they potentially face but focus on those risk factors that are modifiable including not smoking, participating in regular exercise, maintaining a healthy body weight, controlling blood pressure and achieving optimal lipid levels," he said.

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Great steaks are a family tradition at El Gaucho Restaurant



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Aruba's longest established and most popular Argentinean steakhouse, El Gaucho, is still going strong after 33 successful years. Two-time winner of the prestigious Wine Spectator Award of Excellence, the restaurant proudly displays the numerous accolades it has received from other such notable wine and food societies as Chaîne des Rôtisseurs, as well as coveted awards for excellence such as the Worldwide Marketing Organization of Mexico, Golden Trophy for Quality Award of Excellence from France, Arch of Europe for Quality from Business Initiative Directions of Germany and International Award for Tourism, Hotel and Catering Industry from Spain.

Recognized around the world for its quality of service and cuisine, El Gaucho's heartiest applause comes from its loyal clientele, who recommend the restaurant to friends and family with complete confidence in their satisfaction.

When asking a frequent is-

land visitor where they go for a great steak, you will find most frequently their #1 choice will be The Gaucho Steak; a generous portion of prime tenderloin, charcoal-grilled to perfection. El Gaucho Restaurant also boasts the biggest shishkebab in the Caribbean, as well as a varied menu of fresh local fish and seafood, and everyone's favorite cut of steak and ribs.

2009 has brought some welcome changes; an expanded food and wine menu and the restaurant is now open on Sundays. A variety of lamb and veal dishes now garnish the menu, as well as a hearty 20-oz rib eye to satisfy your appetite.

El Gaucho Restaurant is open for lunch and dinner Monday through Saturday from 11:30 a.m. until 11:00 p.m., and on Sunday from 5:30 p.m.. Visit their online guestbook at www.elgaucho-aruba.com, and peruse the glorious praise their receive from their devoted fans, as well as the updated menu.

Princess Diana iconic dress fetches US\$276,000

The dress that was used by the late Diana, Princess of Wales during her first official engagement as the fiancé of the Prince of Wales was sold at an auction for a quarter of a million dollars.

It is the black taffeta dress that the princess wore in 1981 when she attended a black tie event with Prince Charles at the Royal Opera House. It was the dress that will establish Diana as the most glamorous member of the Royal Family. She was 19-years-old at that time.

Not everybody was gaga for the dress — in fact, Prince Charles himself didn't much care for it. Auctioneer Kerry Taylor explains that at the time, royals weren't supposed to wear black except in mourning.

Though only 19, Diana was



well on her way to becoming an icon and a bit of a fashion

rebel. The video shows more of the dress, as well as several other items up for auction, including the late princess' wedding-dress prototype.

Diana returned the dress to creators Elizabeth and David Emanuel, who also created her wedding dress, before her wedding as she was shedding weight. She asked them to alter it for her. The couple instead created her a new one, as it will be easier when compared to altering the original.

The original was then put in a black bin bag at the garage of David Emanuel where it will stay for the next twenty years.

It was bought by Jorge Yarur of the Fundacion Museo de la Moda in Chile for 192,000 British pounds (276,000 USD), which is almost four times the initial estimate of 50,000 pounds.

Scientists use Calvin Klein cologne to lure jaguars

GUATEMALA CITY — Biologists tracking jaguars in the Guatemalan jungle might smell nice but it's all in the name of science, with researchers finding the Calvin Klein cologne Obsession for Men attracts big cats.

Biologists Rony Garcia and Jose Moreira from the Wildlife Conservation Society's (WCS) Jaguar Conservation Program say they use hidden cameras as a primary source for observing and tracking jaguars in the Guatemala's Maya Biosphere Reserve.

But they also rely on Obsession for Men, a cologne known for its complex scent, to help lure then research and hopefully ultimately preserve jaguars in the Central American country.

"The method we are using to study the jaguars here in Guatemala is an invasive method which is based on photographing the individuals by using camera traps," Moreira said.

"It has been very useful using Obsession (for Men) to get the jaguars in front of these camera traps ... and that allows us to estimate with greater confidence the genders and the numbers that live in each studied site."

The discovery that Obsession for Men acted as a magnet for jaguars was the result of an experiment by the WCS's Bronx Zoo in New York.



The WCS was looking for ways to get cheetahs in front of camera traps, and, after several years of testing with different fragrances, found spraying the musky Obsession For Men near the heat-and-motion-sensitive cameras drew the cats for longer than other scents.

They also tried out about 23 other fragrances but Obsession for Men kept the cats' attention for longest with Nina Ricci's L'Air du Temps coming second.

The practice made its way down to Guatemala, where Garcia and Moreira said they have been recording similar success in the wild since 2007, allowing them to track jaguars

and even record their mating rituals.

Garcia said the results will be invaluable to conservation efforts.

"These camera traps help us to identify how many jaguars are living in this area ... (and) helps us to have control over the population and lets us say to the government, to the public, that Laguna del Tigre still deserves conservation," he said.

The WCS said it tentatively plans to expand the use of the cologne in programs in Venezuela, Nicaragua, Bolivia, Peru and Ecuador in coming years.

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Christians view Syria as haven in unstable region



Divine Liturgy lead by His Grace Mar Vilexinos Matthias Naresh, Patriarchal Assistant of the Syrian Orthodox Church



A Syrian Christian orthodox woman kisses a picture of Jesus as she attends an Easter service at a church in Damascus.

DAMASCUS, Syria — Church bells mingle with calls to prayer from mosques in the Old City of Damascus, home to Christian communities rooted here long before the Islamic era.

"Many Muslims feel they own the truth. Many Christians do too," said Mayssa Rumman, who runs a tiny, lovingly restored hotel in Bab Touma, a Christian quarter of the Old City.

"But we don't fight about it and it doesn't stop us from being neighbors or from working with each other," she said.

Syria's dwindling Christians coexist with their Muslim compatriots in a country many of them see as a safe haven, in a region where religious minorities often struggle for survival.

Pope Benedict XVI is so worried about how Christians are faring in a conflict-prone Middle East that he has called bishops to the Vatican in October to consider their plight.

A document he presented Sunday during a visit to Cyprus blames the Israeli-Palestinian struggle, the Iraq war, divisions in Lebanon and rising political Islam in Egypt

for accelerating migration that disproportionately erodes the Christian presence.

Syria remains a relatively benign place for Christians, who nevertheless fear any spillover of regional conflicts and the rise of Islamist movements that might restrict their freedoms.

Muslims and Christians enjoy equal rights here, apart from a constitutional stipulation that the president must be a Muslim.

They also face the same restrictions on political freedom in a country that has known only firm Baath Party rule since 1963.

As the Vatican document puts it, without naming Syria: "In other countries, authoritarianism or dictatorships force the population, Christians included, to bear everything in silence so as to safeguard the essential aspects of living."

Samer Lahham, a layman who runs ecumenical relations at the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate in Damascus, said that the Syrian government "really puts religion aside," noting that passports and identity cards make no mention of religion.

"Secularism plays a very important role, enabling minorities to live in peace and dignity and get access to their rights. We are allowed to build new churches, institutions and schools."

But Christians were uncomfortably aware of the "fanaticism and extremism" preached by some Islamists elsewhere, he said.

"They are everywhere, Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan, so nobody can ignore the trend,"

Lahham said, adding that moderate Muslims were also alarmed at potential damage to the social fabric.

President Bashar al-Assad's father, Hafez al-Assad, crushed an armed uprising by Islamists belonging to the Muslim Brotherhood group in the early 1980s. Islamic influence has spread in society since then, as elsewhere in the Middle East, with the government seeking to co-opt moderate Muslim leaders.

Syrian Christians also fear being tarred by association with the West, whose support for Israel and military invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan have fueled hostility among Muslims.

"Fanatic groups under religious names refer to what has happened since 9/11, the war against Iraq, as a war between the Christianity and Islam, between West and East," Lahham said.

Assad, who inherited power when his father died in 2000, belongs to Syria's Alawite Muslim minority and has shown a solicitous attitude toward Christians, who in turn have supported the secular, Baathist order.

"The fact that Iraqi Christians became a special target of Islamist prejudice and general banditry and extortion following America's destruction of the Baathist regime in 2003 only drove home the vulnerability of Syrian Christians," said Joshua Landis, a Middle Eastern scholar at the University of Oklahoma.

"Syria is the only country in the Islamic world in which school textbooks -- those required in religion classes in government schools -- state in simple language that Christians will go to heaven just as Muslims do," Landis said.

Assad and his wife Asma both attended schools originally established and run by Christians.

Still, the Christian community, reckoned to form 10 percent of Syria's population in the 1940s, is shrinking -- parish statistics gathered by church leaders suggest that Christians now make up only six percent, Landis said.

The decline is due to faster emigration and lower birth rates among Christians than Muslims -- a trend linked to their generally higher levels of education and urbanization. Family ties with Syrian Christian emigre communities make it easier for Western-looking Christians to find new homes abroad.

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Bolshoi prima ballerina Semyonova dies at age 102



The Bolshoi Theater has announced the death of Soviet-era prima ballerina Marina Semyonova. Semyonova died at her home. She was 102.

Marina Semyonova (Semenova) was born in Leningrad in 1908. She was the first great dancer formed by Agrippina Vaganova. Graduated from the Vaganova School in 1925 and stayed in Leningrad until 1930 when she transferred to Moscow and the Bolshoi Theatre. She was guest with the Paris Opéra Ballet in 1935 where she danced Giselle with Serge Lifar.

She became one of the most important teachers and répétiteurs of the Bolshoi Theatre. Natalia Bessmertnova, Marina Kondratieva, Nadezhda Pavlova, Nina Sorokina, Ludmila Semenyaka, Nina Timofeyeva and Galina Stepanenko was among her adepts.

In 1930 she became one of the first Leningrad dancers to transfer successfully to Mos-



cow's Bolshoi Theatre where she was to be the supreme classical dancer for the next 24 seasons. Here she refined her Leningrad heroines, adding several new classical heroines such as Giselle and Esmeralda but also including some of the new Soviet ballets to her repertoire: Mireille in Flames of Paris, Polina in Prisoner of the Caucasus, Queen of the Ball in Bronze Horseman and the title role in Mirandolina. She retired in 1954.

Rarely for an artist under the Stalin regime she was given leave of absence to dance in Paris in 1935 where she performed Giselle with Serge Lifar with great success at the Opéra in addition to classical divertissements, notably the pas de deux from the Shades of La Bayadère.

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ACROSS

1. Big Sur's st.
6. Uris novel, with "The"
9. Psi's follower
14. ___ acid
15. ___ broche: 2 wds.
16. Adversary
17. Modern dwelling, for short
18. Johnny ___
19. Thomas Gray work, e.g.
20. 40 Across sign: 4 wds.
23. Punching tool
24. Throw
25. ___ Plaines
28. Buck heroine
31. Hold up
35. Floral essence
37. Medicinal amount
39. Undeceived by
40. Queue locale: 2 wds.
43. Get word
44. Fiddling emperor
45. Equals
46. Nearly
48. Greek letters
50. Wind dir.
51. Unskilled worker
53. ___ Jima
55. Marketing aids: 2 wds.
61. Handed out hands
62. Menagerie

DOWN

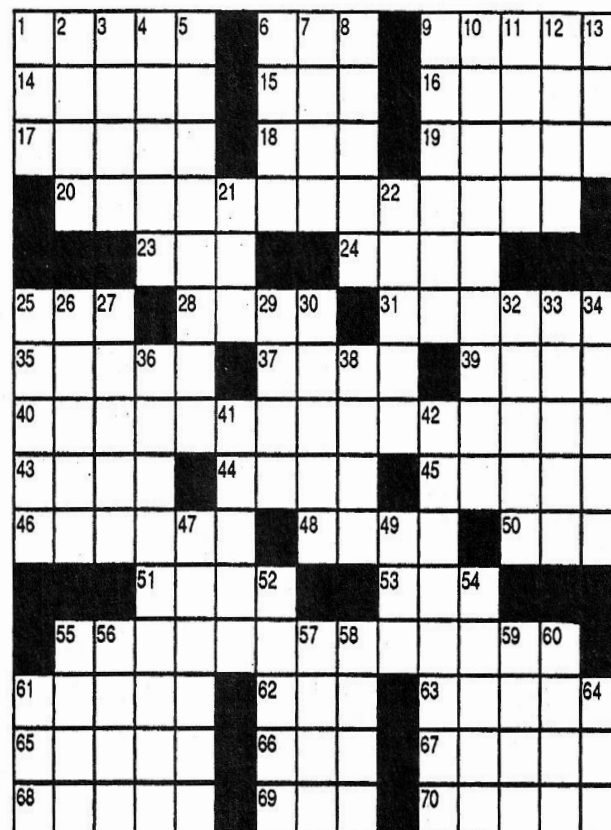
63. Wanderer
65. "___ Was a Lady"
66. Tokyo, formerly
67. Candied
68. Explosion
69. Crimson
70. Intuit
1. Bad: suffix
2. Mine, to Mme.: 2 wds.
3. Typesetting machine, for short
4. Ms. Wilkes of "GWTW"
5. Pugilist's aid
6. Damage
7. Pub brews
8. Ruffle
9. Dire alternative: 2 wds.
10. Major achievement
11. Nights prior
12. Jokes
13. ___ Khan
21. Building wing
22. Western competition
25. Russian villa
26. Ms. Barrymore
27. Cook, in a way
29. Together, musically: 2 wds.
30. Our, in Thiers
32. Poker stakes

ACROSS

33. Anatomical passages
34. Scandinavian
36. Parthenon site
38. Inverness native
41. Leading: 2 wds.
42. Boom signs
47. Sevensome
49. Be sick
52. Lawyer Louis
54. "___ Mio": 2 wds.

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Sudoku



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7	9	4	1	8	5	3	2	6
3	8	9	2	7	6	1	4	5
2	1	6	3	9	4	7	8	5
8	6	7	9	3	2	9	1	4
9	4	1	9	2	8	6	3	7
9	2	3	6	1	7	8	9	4
1	7	2	4	6	3	9	9	8
6	5	9	8	2	1	7	4	3
4	3	8	7	9	9	2	6	1

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
 A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
 In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

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Over USD 50 million lost for stalemate of Isla Refinery

WILLEMSTAD, Curacao -- The refinery run by state-owned oil holding Petr leos de Venezuela in Curacao has caused losses since last March, when it stopped operating due to electricity troubles; its main plants are not working yet.

More than USD 50 million has been lost in Isla, a refinery run by state-owned oil holding Petr leos de Venezuela (Pdvs) on Curacao, since last March, when it stopped operations due to electricity troubles. Its main plants are still not working, the refinery spokesman reported yesterday.

Isla, with a processing capacity of 320,000 barrels per

day (bpd) has experienced frequent non-programmed downtimes over the past few years for problems at the Curacao Utilities Operating Company (CUOC), a supplier of industrial services. Also, some equipment needs to be replaced at the facility.

The spokesman of the refinery based on Curacao, Kenneth Gijsbertha, told local newspaper La Prensa that so far they have not a certain date to start up the units.

Only the lubricants complex is running smoothly to meet the commitments to Venezuela, he added.

The Netherlands Antilles cooperates in tax crackdown

The Dutch Ministry of Finance has said that the Netherlands Antilles will cooperate with third countries' tax authorities in the fight against tax evasion.

The operation, the Ministry said, will involve an investigation of Dutch taxpayers' funds that were allegedly deposited in anonymous Institution Private Pension Funds (IPPFs) in the Antilles. The announcement follows the dissolution of a large number of these trusts after the Netherlands government passed a new 'Succession Law,' which made mandatory the declaration of assets held in IPPFs.

Announcing the move, The Netherlands State Secretary, Jan Kees De Jager, stated: "The Tax Department is cur-

rently conducting an in-depth investigation to see whether there are any attempts to hide assets from the Inland Revenue Service following the adoption of the new Succession Law." To facilitate its investigation, the government has requested data from the Antillean Tax Department and from Dutch banks based on the islands, he added.

The government also announced on June 6 that a team of Dutch and Antillean tax inspectors are to conduct a joint investigation into new information, shared with Dutch authorities by the German government, regarding 22 foundations held by Dutch taxpayers in Liechtenstein, which was purchased by the German gov-

ernment. "The information received from Germany, discloses the owner of the Stiftung (Foundation) and how it is managed. In the meantime, legal proceedings have been instituted against this group," the government's statement explained.

The government also intends in the short-term to increase the minimum fine by 30%. This follows the introduction of a maximum penalty of 300% following an investigation by the government's tax investigation unit. The government in May offered taxpayers the opportunity to disclose funds under a tax amnesty, and appears to be encouraging taxpayers with outstanding tax liabilities to reach for the carrot by sharpening the stick.

Bernanke says recovery on track but jobs to lag

WASHINGTON -- Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke said yesterday the economic recovery was on a solid footing but cautioned it could be years before the jobs lost during the deep recession of 2008-2009 are restored.

"Although the support to economic growth from fiscal policy is likely to diminish in the coming year, the incoming data suggest that gains in private final demand will sustain the demand in economic recovery," Bernanke told the House of Representatives Budget Committee.

While Bernanke said the economy had made an "important transition" where it was in less need of government support, his emphasis on the struggles of the U.S. jobs market

suggested the central bank was in no rush to raise interest rates.

The Fed slashed short term interest rates to near zero and pumped more than \$1 trillion into the financial system to pull the economy through its worst recession since the 1930s. It has promised to hold borrowing costs exceptionally low for an extended period and most analysts do not expect rate rises until 2011.

Bernanke told the lawmakers weak housing and commercial property markets, and budget cutting by states, were among the "significant restraints" holding back the recovery, and he said the unemployment rate would only decline slowly.

"A significant amount of time will be required to restore

the nearly 8-1/2 million jobs that were lost over 2008 and 2009," he said. "In this environment, inflation is likely to remain subdued."

Employers added 431,000 jobs in May but only 41,000 of those positions came from the private sector. The unemployment rate dropped but to a still-high 9.7 percent.

Bernanke said the Fed is keeping a close watch on the European debt crisis for any spillover to the U.S. economy. Actions taken by European leaders show a firm commitment to calming strains and restoring stability, he said.

"If markets continue to stabilize, then the effects of the crisis on economic growth in the United States seem likely to be modest," he said.

Santander turns to Mexico to keep expanding

MADRID, Spain -- Spain's Santander (SAN.MC) shrugged off concerns of a debt crisis at home and showed its overseas expansion ambitions are still intact with the buyout of its Mexican division for \$2.5 billion.

Spain's biggest bank will buy the remaining 24.9 percent of Santander Mexico from Bank of America (BAC.N) in a deal that analysts said was no surprise and strategically smart.

Santander Chairman Emilio Botin has been a canny deal maker in the past -- notably with early entry into Brazil and timely transactions in Italy and Britain -- and has his eyes on

other assets.

Santander is close to entering exclusive talks to buy a network of branches from Royal Bank of Scotland to bulk up in Britain, sources said, which could cost near 2 billion pounds.

It is also expected to attempt to build up its U.S. bank Sovereign, targeting the north-east of the country.

The bank said Mexico was one of the group's key markets, with high growth potential due to the low level of use of banking services there. With full ownership of the bank, Santander said it hopes Mexico's contribution to group profit

will increase by two percentage points, to 7 percent.

Santander is Spain's biggest bank and the eurozone's largest by market capitalization

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

PUZZLE 54

HELP	STEEP	SELL
EVER	HOVER	TRUE
RENO	EXILE	RATE
ENDS	AIL	DAISES
PARC	DARK	
ASTERS	BUTTERED	
CHARH	FLEES	EAR
TAPS	HEALS	RAGE
UKE	REEDS	HURLS
PERSUADE	SENSES	
HERS	FANS	
THIRST	SAW	DALE
RACE	ERODE	ORES
URED	NAMER	WEEP
ODDS	SHEDS	NARY

Divi's Ladies Links team debut new uniform with scramble against San Nicolas Boys



Last Saturday afternoon the Ladies Divi Links group showed off their new uniforms. The pretty girls in pink had a scramble with the 'Boys of Aruba Golf Club in San Nicolas on The Divi Links golf course. There were prizes for Longest Drive, and Closest to the Pin. It was a fun match with lots of jokes and everyone was looking forward to a repeat. Even Divi's G.M. Mr. Newmeijer joined the fun.

Newt Gingrich promotes film on Pope John Paul II

WARSAW, Poland — Former U.S. House Speaker Newt Gingrich — a recent convert to Catholicism — is in Poland promoting a documentary he co-produced on Pope John Paul II's role in defeating communism.

Gingrich, a Republican, is preaching to the converted: the Polish-born pope is revered, and Poles credit him

with inspiring the struggle that eventually helped bring down the Soviet-backed communists in eastern Europe.

Gingrich said Wednesday that his film, "Nine Days that Changed the World," is still needed to remind young Poles, secular historians and people worldwide of John Paul's anti-totalitarian convictions. The film, which will

be screened at American universities this fall, is also being translated into Chinese and Spanish in hopes it will inspire people in Cuba and elsewhere, Gingrich said.

"We believe the pope's message of freedom through faith and his principle that no government can get between you and God is a principle that is relevant in every country, for every person around the world," Gingrich said at a news conference in Warsaw attended by the film's director and the other producers, among them his wife, Callista Gingrich.

The film tracks a visit John Paul made to Poland in 1979 and the electrifying effect it had on Poland's anti-communist opposition.

Gingrich, a Georgia congressman, said he converted to Catholicism last year. Previously he was a Baptist, but started growing closer to Catholicism after marrying Callista — a lifelong Roman Catholic — 10 years ago. He was also inspired by seeing Pope Benedict XVI during his 2008 visit to the United States.

"It was a process which had occurred over about a nine year period," he said.

Ricky Martin set for Broadway revival of 'Evita'



NEW YORK — Ricky Martin is heading to Argentina by way of "Evita" on Broadway.

In the first new Broadway production of the Tony Award-winning musical since its 1979 New York debut, Martin will play the character Che.

The show's producers also announced Wednesday that Argentine actress Elena Roger will star as Evita, a

role she played on the London stage in 2006 to critical acclaim. The Tim Rice-Andrew Lloyd Webber musical dramatizes the life of Eva Peron, Argentina's glamorous and controversial first lady.

The revival of "Evita" is scheduled to open in spring 2012. Michael Grandage will direct, with choreography by Rob Ashford.

Larry King's wife recovering from apparent OD



PROVO, Utah — A spokesman for Larry King says the talk-show host's wife is recovering after an apparent prescription drug overdose last month in Utah.

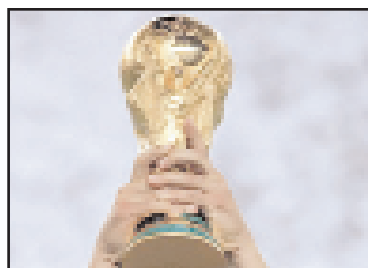
Emergency medical workers were called to Shawn

King's home in Provo on May 28. Her father dialed 911 after finding the 50-year-old woman in her bed, breathing but not responding when he tried to wake her.

He told dispatchers that he thought she may have taken too much medication for anxiety or depression.

Larry and Shawn King filed for divorce in April, but Larry King released a statement Wednesday through his spokesman, Howard Rubenstein, saying their marriage is still together.

King says he supports Shawn King, loves her and that they will go through "this difficult time intact as a family."



South Africa is ready!



In scenes never before seen in South Africa, vuvuzelas across the country blew in unison as the clock struck 12 in mass display of support for the home team – Bafana Bafana.

With what will prove to be one the largest national displays of World Cup spirit since the bid announcement in 2004, a proud nation let the world know just what kind of tournament Africa's first World Cup will be.

Around Johannesburg the crowds were there to welcome the national side, who drove through the city in an open top bus, at every turn as they made their way from their hotel in Sandton to their training ground at Wits University. While in Durban, Cape Town, Port Elizabeth and the other Host Cities, the atmosphere was no less electric as World Cup fever spread as quickly as the distinct drone of the vuvuzela.

It feels like I am in heaven, coming into a crowd of people like this, it makes

me so proud. Thank you Bafana for making us one Nicholas Ndlovu

"I'm here to support Bafana Bafana and to get behind my country," said Zeyn Tilly. "It feels amazing to be here, it is the first time in my life I have seen this unity in South Africa. The atmosphere is just electric."

For Tilly this is the start of a fun-filled six weeks. "You can have no idea how incredible this is for me, I just want it to go as slow as possible so that I can enjoy every minute. This tournament is about more than just football."

It seems Tilly is right, all around the country music blared from speakers, while revellers blew on their vuvuzelas and danced in the streets.

Joseph Mabea came to celebrate the spirit of the country. "I am a huge Bafana fan, I have seen the passion in them and I want them to know I am with them all the way."

Mabea has a ticket for the

opening match and the atmosphere of the parade is only getting him more excited. "I will be there and I can't wait. Seeing such a match live, no longer on the television, is amazing for me. The feeling here is amazing, I am running short of words. I wish this could happen more often, I wish this could be my life, showing how united we are as a nation."

Support for the national side has been growing in recent weeks, both as a result of the proximity of the tournament and due to their performances on the pitch. "This is a great team," said Muhammed Moosa. "12 unbeaten games, they are just great and they will do us proud."

Nicholas Ndlovu is a fully clad in his supporters uniform, with makarapa, vuvuzela, overalls and glasses. "It feels like I am in heaven, coming into a crowd of people like this, it makes me so proud. Thank you Bafana for making us one"

An Open Letter To USA Fans From Coach Bob Bradley

The coach lets fans know of another way to defeat England - by winning the World Cup hosting job.

First of all, on behalf of the players and coaches I would like to thank you for your terrific support of the Men's National Team as we get ready for the FIFA World Cup.

Clearly our main focus is on performing our best in South Africa. At the same time, we are always looking to the future. So today, I would like to take a moment to talk about the USA Bid to host this event in 2018 or 2022.

It would be a tremendous honor to host soccer's greatest tournament, and FIFA is in the process of deciding right now if we will be selected. You can help convince them.

The USA Bid Committee has created a huge petition campaign to show FIFA just how much U.S. soccer fans want to host the World Cup.

More than 450,000 people have already signed on -- and now it's your turn to join them: <http://gousabid.com/USpetition>

In 1994, the United States hosted the most successful World Cup in history. With all the progress we have made in the sport since then, imagine the possibilities if we are given another opportunity.

There are more than 24 million soccer players across the United States, second-most in the world. And soccer continues to grow, from our youth leagues to MLS to our National Team program represented by the 23 players that are here in South Africa competing in this year's

event.

The next giant step in this development is to host the World Cup in 2018 or 2022. Click to sign the petition and join this nationwide movement to bring the World Cup back to the USA.

Over the next few weeks in South Africa, our team will be representing both our country and U.S. Soccer in the eyes of FIFA and the world.

You can help us represent our sport off the pitch by supporting our Bid.

Yours in soccer,

Bob Bradley

Head Coach, U.S. Men's National Team

Nani injury dents Portugal hopes

Portugal suffered a major injury blow today after it was announced winger Nani would play no part in the 2010 FIFA World Cup South Africa after damaging his collar bone.

The Manchester United star is thought to have suffered the injury in training on Friday and will be replaced in the squad by Benfica midfielder Ruben Amorim. Nani's absence will disrupt the plans of Portugal boss Carlos Queiroz, who was counting on the 23-year-old following an impressive season at Old Trafford.

A statement on the Portuguese Football Federation's official website read: "Following the injury to the left clavicle suffered by Nani, a daily assessment of the damage and the completion of medical tests, we have concluded he is unable to be competitive."

In light of the report, the Portuguese Football Federation, taking into account the FIFA regulations for the 2010 World Cup, will call-up Ruben Amorim as a replacement."

Nani emerged from the shadow of Cristiano Ronaldo following his compatriot's move to Real Madrid last summer and became an integral part of Sir Alex Ferguson's side as they narrowly lost out in the title race to Chelsea last term.

Group A

South Africa
Mexico
Uruguay
France

Group B

Argentina
Nigeria
Korea Republic
Greece

Group C

England
USA
Algeria
Slovenia

Group D

Germany
Australia
Serbia
Ghana

Group E

Netherlands
Denmark
Japan
Cameroon

Group F

Italy
Paraguay
New Zealand
Slovakia

Group G

Brazil
Korea DPR
Côte d'Ivoire
Portugal

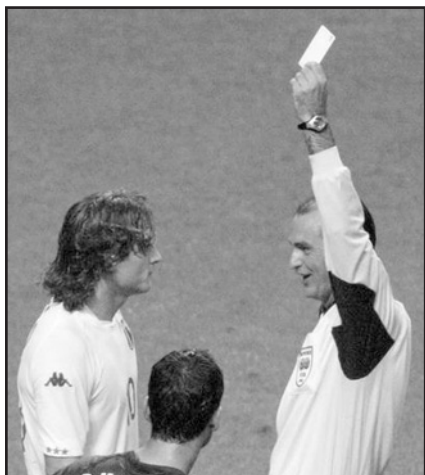
Group H

Spain
Switzerland
Honduras
Chile



The Road to 2010 FIFA World Cup

Referee for England-US match loves yellow card



IRENE, South Africa — Carlos Simon, who will referee the match between England and the United States at the World Cup, went through cards with the speed of a Las Vegas dealer at the 2006 tournament.

The Brazilian referee issued five yellows during Italy's 2-0 first-round victory over Ghana, handing the first to Daniele de Rossi 10 minutes in. He gave out eight more in Spain's 3-1 win over Tunisia, and added four yellows and a red to his total as

Spain's Sergio Ramos Uncomfortable With Favorites Tag

Spain defender Sergio Ramos has expressed his unease with the 'favourites' label being attached to his side ahead of the World Cup, reminding his team-mates that any repeat of their Euro 2008 success will require a lot of hard work.

"We don't like being favourites," he told Real Madrid's official website.

"But we do have a great group of players and I believe we can do something important if we work as well as we did in Euro 2008."

The 24-year-old defender

Germany beat Sweden 2-0 in the second round.

He's been selected to officiate England's first match at this year's World Cup, on Saturday. Given an English team and an American side filled with Premier Leaguers, it could make for a match of attrition.

"A foul in England is a foul," American goalkeeper Marcus Hahnemann said. "In another country, they're wondering if it's a yellow card or a red card."

The U.S. had its own card-filled night at the last World Cup. In the 1-1 draw against Italy, the Americans went a man up when De Rossi was sent off by Uruguayan Jorge Larrión in the 28th minute for an elbow that split Brian McBride's left cheek. Seventeen minutes later, the sides were evened when Pablo Mastroeni was shown red for a studs-up tackle on Andrea Pirlo. American defender Eddie Pope was sent off two

minutes into the second half for his second yellow.

World Cup matches generally are refereed more tightly than league games, especially than those in England.

FIFA has tried to increase protection of goal-scorers, telling referees to give red cards for career-threatening fouls. But just because Simon gave out lots of cards four years ago, American right back Steve Cherundolo doesn't necessarily expect a similar spate.

"I think the game Saturday, of course it will be a hard-fought game," he said. "Both teams want to win. Both are physically talented. So I assume there will be some tackles that may be reported or punished by a yellow card—I hope no red cards."

Uruguay announces starting 11 for France

JOHANNESBURG — Uruguay coach Oscar Tabarez named his starting team for Friday's World Cup match against France, with defender Mauricio Victorino and midfielder Egidio Arevalo the surprise picks on Wednesday.

Victorino's callup means Andres Sotti will on the bench, while Arevalo starts ahead of Walter Gargano.

Diego Forlan of Atletico Madrid is partnered up front by Ajax's Luis Suarez in the lineup released by Tabarez.

Uruguay also faces Mexico and host South Africa in Group A.

Tabarez said he was looking for balance in his team, while he was also mindful of the side France was expected to pick.

"You have to keep in mind the strength of the rival, which is the starting point for all one can do defensively," Tabarez said. "We also have to put them under pressure when we have the ball."

Team: Fernando Muslera, Mauricio Victorino, Diego Lugano, Diego Godin, Maximiliano Pereira, Alvaro Pereira, Diego Perez, Egidio Arevalo Rios, Ignacio Gonzalez, Luis Suarez, Diego Forlan.

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Lakers take 2-1 NBA series lead



BOSTON, Massachusetts — Kobe Bryant finished with 29 as the Los Angeles Lakers beat the Boston Celtics 91-84

in game three of the NBA finals.

Pau Gasol had 13 points and 10 rebounds and Andrew Bynum chipped in with 10 rebounds for the defending champion Lakers, who weathered an early assault, jumped out to a 17-point lead before allowing the Celtics to climb back in it. Fisher and Bryant then powered them down the stretch as they held on for the win to take a 2-1 lead in the best-of-seven series.

"We had to be poised and we did that," said Bryant, who struggled at times on offense, shooting just 10-of-29 from the field in Tuesday's match. "They pushed but they never got control of the game."

"You win championships with defence and rebounding. Shots come and go but you got to stay after it on defence."

Game four is also in Boston today as the Celtics host the Lakers three games in a row.

"We worked hard," said the Fisher. "Sometimes things don't go your way but you just got to keep believing in yourself. I love this team. I love what I do. Nothing means more to me than to have success with my teammates."

Forward Kevin Garnett finished with 25 points and six rebounds for the fourth seeded Celtics who are trying to become biggest underdog NBA finals winner since the sixth seeded Houston captured the crown in 1995.

"When you play a team like this you can't dig a hole like 17 points," Garnett said. "It is too big a deficit."

The last time the Lakers were in Boston for a finals game they left with their tails between their legs after a 39-point Celtics rout that the clinched the NBA title two years ago.

"We didn't doubt our ability to win here," Fisher said.

This is the second time in three seasons and the 12th time the Lakers and Celtics have met in the NBA finals since their first meeting in 1959 finals.

The Lakers are seeking their 16th NBA title and are second all-time behind Boston's 17 championships.

For the second consecutive game in the series, the teams battled down the stretch but this time the Lakers were able to hold off the Celtics.

The Celtics came out quickly off the opening tip off, jumping out to a 12-5 lead but then it was all Lakers for the first half. Los Angeles'

biggest lead was 17 points in the second quarter.

Strong play from the bench helped the Lakers go on a 10-2 scoring run to end the first for a 26-17 lead in front of a crowd of 18,624 at the Boston Garden arena. They carried that over into the second quarter, building a double digit 52-40 lead at the half.

The much-maligned Garnett found his scoring touch early, scoring the first three baskets of the game for the Celtics. Garnett had more points in game three than his total for the first two games combined.

The same can't be said for the Celtics' Paul Pierce and Ray Allen who shot a combined five-of-25 Tuesday.

NBA FINALS



BOSTON VS. L.A. LAKERS

LOS ANGELES 102, BOSTON 89 (LA LEAD 1-0)

BOSTON 103, LOS ANGELES 94 (SERIES TIED 1-1)

LOS ANGELES 91, BOSTON 94 (LA LEAD 2-1)

THURSDAY, JUNE 10: LOS ANGELES AT BOSTON, 9 P.M.

X-SUNDAY, JUNE 13: LOS ANGELES AT BOSTON, 8 P.M.

X-TUESDAY, JUNE 15: BOSTON AT LOS ANGELES, 9 P.M.

X-THURSDAY, JUNE 17: BOSTON AT LOS ANGELES, 9 P.M.

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Venezuela begins new forex market, sets new Bolivar rate

CARACAS, Venezuela—Venezuela's central bank launched its new, highly regulated foreign-exchange market yesterday and, as expected, set a trading band that many say overvalues the local currency and could lead to the creation of a booming black market.

The bank didn't specifically announce a trading band for the bolivar against the dollar. Instead, it set a price range for the purchase of dollar-denominated Venezuelan bonds, payable in bolivars. These bond sales will be used as an indirect way to trade currency, a method officials say can reduce speculation and sharp moves in the currency.

The bank gave price ranges for the local purchase of PDVSA bonds as well as sovereign Venezuelan debt, and traders said those prices suggest the new forex market's trading band is beginning at about VEF4.8 to VEF5.6 for \$1. The band is expected to be adjusted daily.

The new currency-exchange market replaces an eight-year-old, unregulated, free-floating market that President Hugo Chavez said had become satiated with speculators and fraudsters. Over the

past month, Chavez's government has arrested and jailed several brokerage-house directors and raided dozens of trading houses.

Amid the alleged rampant speculation, the bolivar had fallen 25% this year, spurring a worrisome spike in inflation, which is now at 31% a year, the highest in Latin America.

By creating a new market that is under the watchful eye of the central bank and will have a tightly enforced trading band, the government said the bolivar should stabilize and inflation should retreat.

But analysts said they doubt that adding even more government control to an already convoluted currency system is the answer.

"The new system is likely to be a poor substitute for the old [unregulated] market and will result in growing foreign-exchange and price distortions that will further undermine growth," said Patrick Esteruelas, an analyst with Eurasia Group in New York.

The implicit new trading band is above the government's official rate of VEF4.3 for \$1, and well below the unregulated market's rate of about VEF8 for \$1.

Many analysts said the new trading band should have been set closer to the unregulated market's rate of VEF8 for \$1, which they said is a clearing-market price.

Some analysts have said the fact that the new trading band is above the official VEF4.3 rate suggests this is an implicit devaluation of the currency. Officials reject that notion, saying the new market is just one part of a larger currency-trading system.

Analysts said comments by Central Bank President Nelson Merentes suggest the bank realizes there will be more demand for dollars at the new rate than there is supply. That, they said, suggests a thriving black market is bound to be born.

Merentes said Tuesday the bank will be selective about who it allows to have access to dollars in the new market, pointing out that a smaller-sized company asking for \$1 million will be rejected immediately.

Another concern of the new system is whether the bank has enough dollar-denominated bonds to meet the expected heavy demand.



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